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His statements are generally exact, but it is not always easy to determine what is his own judgment respecting particular measures or general lines of policy ; and a certain vagueness of language not unfrequently leaves us in doubt which side of a disputed question he has finally adopted. His narrative is often interrupted by digressions which are not always pertinent to the subject under discussion, and by collateral references to other portions of English history. The forgotten scandals and immoralities of that coarse age seem to be especially attractive to him, and he reverts to the squabbles of the royal family, and to the disgusting profligacy of the nobility and upper classes, with a needless frequency. In the minor facts of his narrative we notice some mistakes, which indicate carelessness on the part of the author or the proof-reader. Thus we are told that "Peyton Randolph, Quincey, Jefferson, and others, whose names were soon to become famous, are found among the fifty-six members of the first Congress." It is perhaps needless to say that this body did not consist of fifty-six members, that Quincy, as the name should have been spelled, was never a member of Congress, and that Jefferson was not chosen until 1775, when he succeeded Randolph. By a still more unaccountable blunder, the skirmish at Lexington, the battle of Bunker Hill, and several other memorable occurrences of 1775, are narrated under date of 1774. Ticonderoga is twice spelled Ticonderago ; Charles River is called the St. Charles ; and there are other mistakes of a similar character which need not detain us.

Following the example of Lord Macaulay, Mr. Massey has devoted an entire chapter, of about a hundred pages, to the social condition of England at the commencement of the reign of George III. In this chapter he has collected much curious information, but little if any of it is positively new, and in several instances he has borrowed largely from his great model. This sketch is to us disfigured by that vein of coarseness to which we have alluded.

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7. — *Studies and Illustrations of the Great Rebellion.* By JOHN LANGTON SANFORD, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister at Law. London : J. W. Parker and Son. 1858. 8vo. pp. 632.

THE history of this volume, as related in the Preface, is somewhat peculiar, and is well suited to excite an interest in the book. Being unable to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion in regard to the facts on which historians have based their various estimates of Cromwell's character, Mr. Sanford determined, more than fifteen years ago, to make as complete a collection as possible of Cromwell's letters, with a view to

a further investigation of the subject. He accordingly instituted diligent search for them in print and among the manuscripts in the British Museum; and at the end of two years he had collected "about three hundred letters, published and unpublished, and had read through and re-punctuated into some new sense most of the Protector's printed speeches." In the mean time Mr. Carlyle had prosecuted a similar course of investigation, the results of which were given to the public in 1845, in "The Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell." A portion of Mr. Sanford's labors was thus anticipated; and upon the publication of the second edition of that work, he very courteously communicated to Mr. Carlyle several unpublished letters from his own collection. Subsequently he resumed his researches, and from the unpublished Journal of Sir Simonds D'Ewes, the Tanner MSS., and other sources, he obtained much new and valuable material, which he embodied in a Life of Oliver Cromwell. This work was offered to the London publishers in 1850, and declined. Five years later Mr. Sanford "made another and equally unsuccessful attempt to bring it before the public, in a reduced and modified form." Fortunately, however, upon the publication of John Forster's Biographical and Historical Essays, in the early part of 1858, he determined to appeal from the publishers to the reading public. His labors had been twice anticipated, — for the most valuable part of Mr. Forster's volumes is drawn almost entirely from the Journal of Sir Simonds D'Ewes; and in order to secure any credit for his own researches, it was desirable that some portion at least of their results should be published without further delay. • This has been done in the volume before us.

Mr. Sanford is not an easy or an agreeable writer, and in several respects his work is open to unfavorable criticism. Its arrangement is defective; and its usefulness is much diminished by the lack of an analytical table of contents and an index. But it is evidently based upon a comprehensive study of the subject, and comprises much new and important information, particularly in regard to the proceedings upon the bill of attainder against Strafford, and in regard to the attempted seizure of the five members. Upon several other points it also throws added light, and its narrative portions are uniformly full and minute. It is divided into ten chapters, of which the first two are merely preliminary, and might have been omitted. The first, which covers about sixty pages, is devoted to a general and rather unsatisfactory discussion of the foreign and domestic policy of the later Tudors, and of the first two Stuarts; the second treats of Puritanism, Social and Religious, as it was exhibited at different periods in its history. The next two chapters describe, with much and unnecessary detail, the Antecedents and First

Years of King Charles, and the Early Life of Oliver Cromwell; the fifth contains a very full and carefully prepared list of the members of the Long Parliament; and the last five trace the course of events from the first meeting of that memorable body to the close of the year 1645. It is in this latter part of the volume that Mr. Sanford has embodied most of his new material, and has given the most convincing proof of the thoroughness of his researches.

In dealing with the numerous controverted subjects which engage his attention, Mr. Sanford's sympathies are always on the side of the popular leaders; and he is as ardent an admirer of Cromwell as Carlyle is. Indeed, in his hearty approval of the measures of the Long Parliament he goes much farther than most of the recent English historians; and in two or three instances he zealously defends the course pursued by Pym and his associates, against the strictures of Mr. Hallam, one of the most candid and impartial of historians. But the real merit of his volume is not so much in its controversial ability, as in the clearness of its narrative and in the freshness of much of the material introduced in support of its statements. In both these respects it is a valuable contribution to historical literature, and Mr. Sanford's labors are entitled to grateful acknowledgment.

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- 8.—*A Yacht Voyage. — Letters from High Latitudes; being Some Account of a Voyage in the Schooner Yacht "Foam," 85 O. M., to Iceland, Jan Mayen, and Spitzbergen, in 1856.* By LORD DUFFERIN. [From the Fourth London Edition.] Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1859. 16mo. pp. 406.

LORD DUFFERIN'S Letters owe their well-deserved popularity, partly to the comparative freshness of the theme, and partly to the lively and agreeable manner in which it is treated. Sailing from the river Clyde early in June, 1856, his Lordship, who is a young Irish peer of extensive reading and cultivated tastes, successively visited Iceland, the still more remote islands of Jan Mayen and Spitzbergen, and the coasts of Norway and Denmark, returning home early in the autumn of the same year. Within this brief period he sailed nearly six thousand miles, and saw many places which are seldom visited by travellers. These he has described in a series of letters to his mother, written in a very spirited and graphic style, and interspersed with some curious and pleasant bits of Northern lore, and some excellent versions of the Northern sagas. His social position and the personal popularity of one of his fellow-voyagers, a young Icelandic who had been studying